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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT

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COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

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DATE DISTR. /5 Feb 1954

SUBJECT Brown Coal Mines "Marie Majerova" and "Jiri"

NO. OF PAGES 3

PLACE
ACQUIREDNO. OF ENCLS. 1
(LISTED BELOW)DATE
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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

DATE OF INFORMATION

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"Marie Majerova" Brown Coal Mine, Kralovske Porici

1. The location of the "Marie Majerova" mine is indicated by the circled number three, Enclosure A. The "Marie Majerova" brown coal mine is located near Sokolov. It is being mined at present (late 1952), to a depth of 120 meters. It falls under the jurisdiction of the HDB in Sokolov. The operating management is located directly at the mine. The mine operates with mechanical equipment which is extremely antiquated, and absolutely inadequate for the demands of modern mining. Coal from the "Marie" pit is shipped, through a connecting passage, to the cage of the Jindrich mine, and thence to the surface. The "Marie" mine has a pit head tower used only for transportation of the miners. [] the quantity of coal mined at the "Marie" mine.)
2. The Director of the mine is (fn) Vesely, a former miner, 32 years old, 170 cm tall, medium build, dark brown hair, an ardent Communist; he lives in Sokolov. The mine employs about 800 workers in three shifts; about 50 percent of the men are miners, and the rest are helpers and auxiliary employees. Wages are scaled according to the State Work Catalog. The maximum wage of a miner, working with a mechanical digger, is established at 7,000 to 8,000 crowns a month; however, some workers managed to earn as much as 17,000 crowns a month by the use of Stakhanovite methods. These workers used the Boris Kinov method, the so-called "fast digging of passages method". (Using this method, three miners form a crew and work together, digging four passages simultaneously; each miner performs only one operation: for example, one miner will blast coal, and move from coal face to coal face; another will load into tubs or onto a mechanical ladder; the third will shore up. The Boris Kinov method speeds up progress, but often exposes the workers to danger.) The minimum helper's wage was 2800 crowns a month.

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3. About 50 percent of the workers of the "Marie" mine are members of the Communist Party, and the rest have no Party affiliation. The workers' morale was poor, due, in part, to low earnings, and in part to the fact that the six hour Saturday shifts had been discontinued and the miners had to come in to work practically every Sunday. (Sunday shifts were "in honor of" the Communist celebration or another.)
4. As of 1 January 53, this mine was placed on the "rotation at the workplace" system. This meant that each workman had to remain at his place of work until relieved. In practice, however, it meant that a miner had to descend to the coal face one half hour earlier than usual, and the miner at the coal face had, often, to remain at his workplace one half hour later than before. This added an hour more to the shift, without compensation. The miners were vehement in their resentment of this system. In addition, working norms were constantly being "fortified". The Marie mine was fulfilling its plan 100 percent. The Sokolov coal region received the 1952 residential pennant for exemplary coal production in Czechoslovakia.
- "Jiri" Brown Coal Mine, near Sokolov
5. [For exact location see Enclosure A, circled number one.] "Jiri" is a brown coal mine, 70 meters deep. The pithead tower, with elevator, for this mine is located at the station in Sokolov, and coal is loaded directly into freight cars. Part of the coal from the mine is shipped, via cable car, to the chemical plant in Sokolov [see Enclosure (A)]. The mechanical equipment of the "Jiri" mine is poor; the installations are old, and no attempts to modernize have taken place. The mine yields about 1,600 tons of coal every two shifts. The management is located directly at the mine.
6. The director is Frantisek Tesar, a former worker who attended a course for directors of enterprises. He is about 40 years of age, 163 cm tall, stocky build, black hair and dark complexion; he is an ardent Communist, and lives in Kralovske Perici. The "Jiri" mine employs approximately 500 workers in two shifts. The wages are comparable to those at the "Marie" mine. Although the work is performed in two shifts, a third shift, at night, is used as the maintenance shift, and performs only maintenance operations. The mine has an enterprise guard and a militia unit, the strength [redacted] not know. The morale of the workers here is as low as it is at the "Marie" mine. The production plan is being fulfilled 100 percent.

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ENCLOSURE: A: Sketch-map of Sokolov area, with legend.

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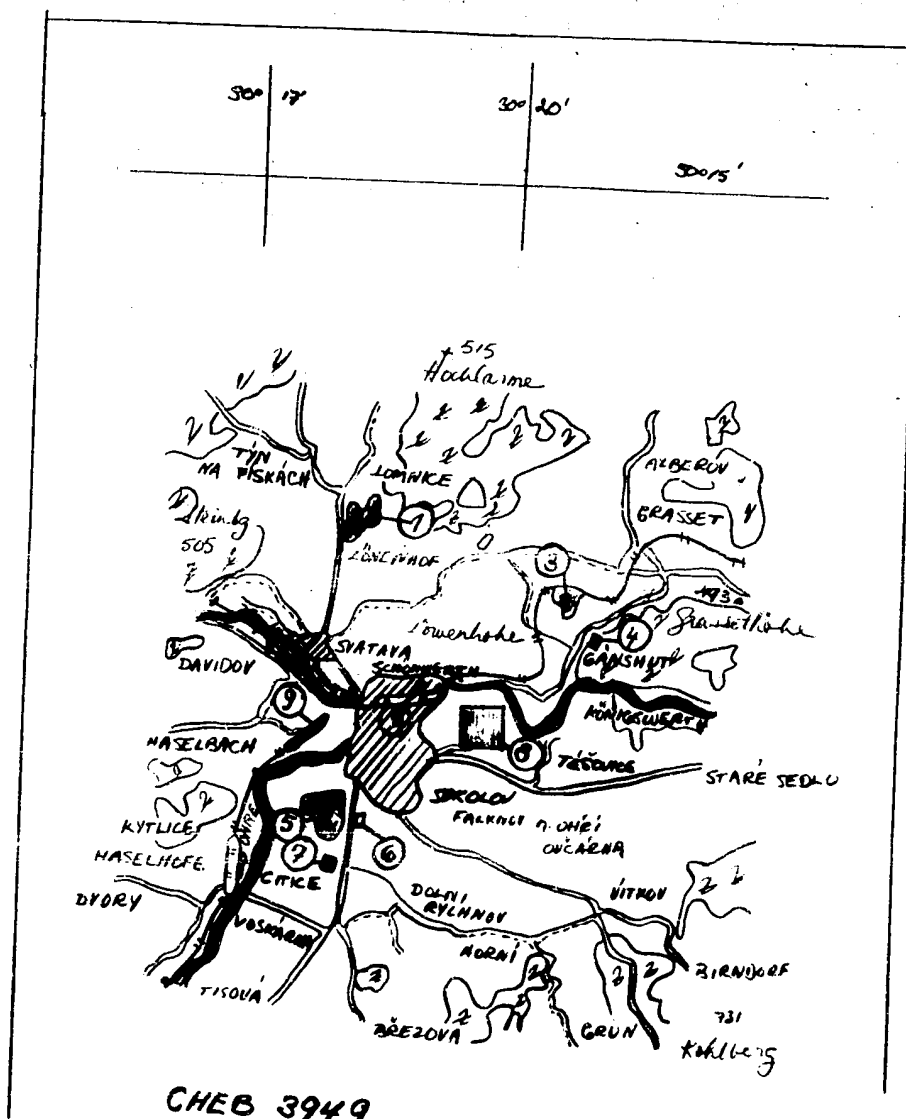
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ENCLOSURE (A)

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Legend:

- 1... Mine "Jiri"
- 2... Pithead tower of the mine "Jiri"
- 3... Mine "Marie Mayerova"
- 4... State School of mining sciences
- 5... Mine "Antonine"
- 6... Power Plant
- 7... General Directorate HMB (brown coal mines and briglette works - Sokolov)
8. Chemical Plant
9. Classification yard (railroad) in Sokolov

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